



**Classes, Coffee, and Conversations**

May 7

TGIF

May 14

Moms of the Bible Trivia

May 21

Brunch Potluck with Time for Feedback

May 28

Classes will Resume in Sept



**DIRECTORY UPDATE**

In the month of May we will be updating the Member Directory. Please watch for more information.

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*We hope you enjoy our monthly newsletter, **The New Times**.*

*For comments and suggestions, please contact the BPC Office*



**Matthew 22:36-40**

**36** "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" **37** Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39** And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' **40** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

The command to love is an often cited one when it comes to the Christian life and what it should look like. Love, however, is often conflated with emotion and feeling in our culture. Love in the Bible is an action, love is our response to being loved by God and being witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus. So if love is an action, what does it look like? We could turn to 1 Corinthians and the often used recitation describing love read at weddings. We can look at the life of Jesus and see how he treated people; friend and stranger, neighbor and enemy. In light of it being the season of Easter and keeping in mind that May ends with the celebration of Pentecost, I want us to consider what love looks like through the lens of the Church shortly after Easter, directly following Pentecost.

**Acts 2:42-47**

**42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. **44** All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **46** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **47** praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

In this passage we are told briefly of the life of the Church and in this description shown how they are fulfilling the commandments to love God and love neighbor.

We are told that they (the Church) devoted themselves to apostolic teaching, to breaking bread (often interpreted to mean the Lord's Supper), to prayer, praise, and to worship in the Temple. In all of these ways the Church was loving God as a faithful community.

Similarly we are told that the Church was devoted to fellowship, to holding common property, to redistributing their resources so everyone had what they needed. Here they show their love for one another and especially for the needy among and around them.

These may seem like obvious ways in which the church, and thus all Christians, are called to love, but to make and keep this as our life is a challenge which never lets up. Our constant call as disciples is that of love, which necessitates the continued commitment of relationship with God and one another. And in those relationships we are called to worship and prayer, to fellowship, common life together and the redistribution of resources to those in need, and to the Word and Sacraments.

Friends, this is our work and our calling. This is our past, our present, and our future. May we never lose sight of the love we have been shown and the love we are to show. Praise be to God who is not only loving, but is love.

-Pastor Brian

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**The Accessibility Coordination Team (ACT) is up and moving. Session has established this team to help coordinate efforts in our church as we seek to make our life together more accessible to all people. Thanks to Marlene A., Mary C., Barb J., Chuck K., Michele L., and Pat O. for bringing your gifts to this team.**





**CCC EARTH DAY – EARTH CARE-** The Mission Committee presented the “Earth Care” program on April 23, and thank you to Mike Quady and Pastor Brian for their leadership. BPC is in the beginning stages of developing earth-care practices. Here are some things that we all can do to help to better care for our earth:

- Turn scraps into compost
- Recycle electronics
- Use a compact fluorescent bulb
- Conserve energy by turning off lights
- Walk, bike, or carpool
- Pick up trash
- Unplug items when they're not in use
- Use a reusable water bottle
- Recycle
- Turn off water while brushing teeth
- Take shorter showers
- Go meatless a few times a week
- Buy secondhand
- Make your own cleaning supplies
- Support green businesses

### Earth Day Programs

**PENTECOST OFFERING, Sunday May 28** – A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

## Pentecost Offering

for Children at Risk, Youth, and Young Adults

Through the Pentecost Offering, the church expresses a common commitment to provide hope for children at risk, opportunities for youth and young adults to grow in their faith, and short-term mission service options for young adults.

Please give generously.



**CONTAINER GARDEN CLASS** – A very special thank from the Mission Committee to Joan Lowe and her family for a wonderful Container Garden Class. Great garden information from the Intern Master Gardeners; delicious food; wonderful prizes; and fun for all! Over 40+ people in attendance who very obviously loved it. They said they would like more events like this.



**Yummy Food**



**Fun for all**



**Some of the many plants started by Joan**



**Wonderful prizes**

We were grateful to see our church members and the many Buffalo community members involved in this program!

# May 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> 6:30p Prayer Shawl 7:00p AA Meeting	<b>2</b> 9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast 6:00p Building & Grounds Committee Meeting 7:00p Faith Formation Committee Meeting	<b>3</b> 7:00p Adult Choir	<b>4</b> 7:30a Women of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group 7:00p Communications Committee Meeting	<b>5</b> Cinco de Mayo	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 10:30a CCC: TGIF 11:30a ACT	<b>8</b> 6:30p PEO 7:00p AA Meeting	<b>9</b> 9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast 6:30p Finance Committee Meeting 7:30p Missions Committee Meeting	<b>10</b> 7:00p Adult Choir	<b>11</b> 7:30a Women of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Mother's Day 9:30a Worship with Communion 10:30a CCC: Moms of the Bible Trivia	<b>15</b> 4:00p Deacons Meeting 6:30p Buffalo Art Guild 7:00p AA Meeting	<b>16</b> 9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast 6:30p Session	<b>17</b> 7:00p Adult Choir	<b>18</b> 7:30a Women of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:00a SPOT: Prayer Beads
<b>21</b> 9:30a Worship 10:30a Brunch Potluck	<b>22</b> 7:00p AA Meeting	<b>23</b> 9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7:30a Women of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30a Worship	<b>29</b> Memorial Day 7:00p AA Meeting	<b>30</b> 9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast	<b>31</b>			

## Upcoming Events



**Spiritual Practices Of Today is a monthly Faith Formation offering that focuses on various spiritual practices we can use to grow deeper in our faith and relationship with God.**

Join us for the May SPOT event where we will learn about the use of prayer beads. We will discover how prayer beads may be used to enhance your prayer practice. We will each make a set of prayer beads, and have an example of how to use them to pray.

Come learn about prayer beads on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall

**SAVE THE DATE: June SPOT will be on Wednesday the 14th at 7:00 pm. Pastor Brian will lead us in a conversation about Testimony, why telling your story is important and powerful.**

## Walk With Us

The Communications Committee is planning to participate in the Buffalo Days Parade again this year, but we need your help. We feel our float would be enhanced if we had church members walking along the parade route with it. The only qualifications are that you can smile and wave. It's helpful for parade-goers to see the actual people connected with the church. The parade is Saturday evening, June 16, from 6:30 to 8:30. If you can walk with us, please sign up in the church lobby, or let Christy know. Thank you!

## Synod School

It's time to register for Synod School, an all ages gathering in Storm Lake, Iowa from July 23-28th. Come experience worship, fellowship, and classes/activities for every interest and age. Please speak with Pastor Brian if you have more questions. The Faith Formation Committee has scholarship money available, if interested please talk to Cindy Doth or Pastor Brian. Registration and the course catalog are available at <https://lakesandprairies.org/engaging-leaders/synod-school/> There are also paper catalogs to look at outside the office.

## Pentecost

**Sunday May 28th is Pentecost!!**

**We invite you to wear red or other fiery colors to worship that day!**

# May Volunteer Schedule

Service Date	Building Cleaning	Coffee Time	Greeters	Lay Leader	Sound Board	Ushers	Pray & Play
5/7	Becky & Don Eddy	Lois Lindstrom/ Elaine Thole	Larry Pattee/ Kathy Quady	Steve Grittmann	Eric Ellwoods	Kathy Quady & Kevin Spike	NA
5/14	Liz & Chuck Klaassen	Larry & Lavina Pattee	Larry Janski/ Liz Klaassen	Eric Ellwoods	Chuck Klaassen	Kathy Quady & Kevin Spike	Cindy Doth
5/21	Liz & Chuck Klaassen	Marlene Aldrich/ Linda Shebiel	Mike Quady/ Al DeBellis	Ashton Olsen	Mike Quady	Kathy Quady & Kevin Spike	Michele Lawlor
5/28	Deb Anderson/ Kathy Quady	Lois Lindstrom/ Elaine Thole	Elaine Thole/ Charlie Wilkens	Barb Janski	Eric Ellwoods	Kathy Quady & Kevin Spike	NA
6/4	Deb Anderson/ Kathy Quady	Larry & Lavina Pattee	Larry Pattee/ Kathy Quady	Theresa Bevilacqua	Chuck Klaassen	Larry Janski & Kevin Spike	NA

## Potluck Breakfast Brunch on Sunday, May 21

Our last fellowship event of this school year will be a Potluck Breakfast Brunch on Sunday, May 21. This is the day that the choir will lead worship, singing all your favorites that day. The breakfast brunch will follow the worship service and choir performance that day, so start thinking about your favorite brunch dish to share with others, whether it's sweet or savory. Please join us!



## Community Breakfast

Save the date: BPC serves breakfast the morning of July 8th.





## Session Summary

Highlights of the April 18 Stated Meeting

### Worship and Music Committee planning an Sunday evening worship service in June

The Session approved a **Sunday evening Vespers service on June 25 at 7:00 pm which will be held instead of the regular Sunday morning service.** The committee says it hopes the service will give us a different perspective as the evening sun shines through the west-facing stained glass windows. It also may provide those who are out of town for the weekend an opportunity to worship. If the service is successful, there may be one or two additional evening services this summer/fall.

### Nominating Committee is seeking Elders and Deacons

The Nominating Committee has begun their work finding Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2026. There are two openings on the Session, some of which may be filled by current Elders. There are two openings on the Board of Deacons. When the church by-laws were updated in January the membership on Session was reduced from nine Elders to eight Elders. The three year rotation will elect two Elders this year and three Elders in each of the next two years. The two-three-three pattern will continue in succeeding years. A Special Congregational Meeting will be called in the coming weeks to consider the nominating committee's recommendations and elect new officers.



## Session

*Meets monthly on the third Tuesday at 6:30 pm*

Theresa Bevilacqua	Finance Committee
Mary Coleman	Communication Committee
Cindy Doth	Education & Youth Committee
Don Eddy	Building & Grounds Committee
Jill Gatzke	At Large
Chuck Klaassen	Fellowship Committee
Mary Markve-Patch	Worship & Music Committee
Ralph Johansen	Missions Committee
Kathy Quady	Personnel Committee
Mike Quady	Clerk of Session
Pastor Brian Entz	Moderator

## Board of Deacons

*Meets monthly on the third Monday at 6:00 pm*

Diane Ellis*	Deacon Treasurer*
Barb Janski*	
Liz Klaassen	
Louise Markve	
Elaine Thole	
George Thole	

\*Please note that our Church Treasurer is Mandy Harkess.

## Giving Update from our Treasurer

### 2023 1st Quarter Giving Update

	Pledged	Given	%
General Fund	135,132	39,697	29%
Building Fund	5,714	1,896	33%
Per Capita	2,100	450	21%

**To give online, please scan the QR code.**





Buffalo Presbyterian Church is a congregation in which the Word, the Spirit, and the Love of God enrich and strengthen us as individuals and families in Christ.

The purpose of this Church is to fully equip us to become disciples of Jesus Christ, obeying His commandments to love and worship God, love and care for our neighbors, and make new disciples in our community and the world.



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